RBCC
"TWILIGHT OF THE HEROES"

twilight of the heroes

ART AND STORY BY RON WILBER ·77
SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM VAN HISE

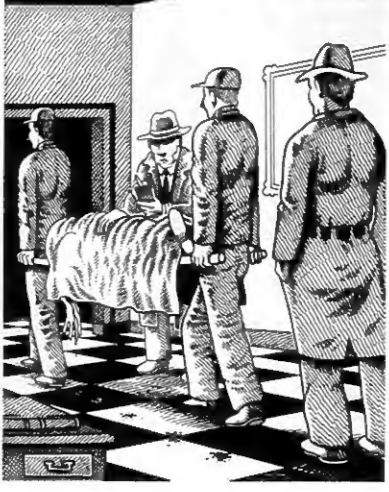
ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS OR CHARACTORS LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY INTENDED.

HELLO, I'M RONALD WILBER WORLD FAMOUS ARTISTIC BOY-WONDER, WITH A TRUE STORY TO TELL. IN 1955 A COVER-UP BEGAN, A MOST FANTASTIC COVER-UP. THE STORY YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ HAS BEEN HUSHED UP FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS. IN EARLY 1977 MANY SECRET DOCUMENTS, FILES, AND CORONER RECORDS CAME INTO MY POSSESSION THROUGH A SOURCE WHO WISHED TO REMAIN UNKNOWN BUT WANTED THIS STORY TO BE TOLD. I TOOK THE FILES TO JIM VAN HISE, WE READ THEM AND TOGETHER WE BECAME DETERMINED TO MAKE THIS STORY PUBLIC. MANY LONG HOURS OF RESEARCH WERE SPENT RECONSTRUCTING WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL YEARS OF THE COVER-UP, 1955 THRU 1964, A TIME PERIOD IN WHICH MANY POPULAR SUPER-HEROES AND COMICS CODE OFFICIALS WERE BRUTALLY MURDERED. WITH THE USE OF THESE NEVER BEFORE PUBLICIZED RECORDS I WILL RE-CONSTRUCT FOR YOU THE WHOLE HORRIBLE STORY, AND REMEMBER THIS... IT REALLY HAPPENED!

part-I "last respects"

IT STARTED IN JANUARY 1955 WHEN POLICE DISCOVERED THE BODY OF ONE COMICS CODE OFFICIAL IN HIS ROOM. THE MURDER WAS MORE BRUTAL THAN USUAL BUT THE POLICE CONSIDERED IT MERELY ANOTHER MURDER.

LATER THAT MONTH ANOTHER COMICS CODE OFFICIAL WAS FOUND MURDERED, AGAIN HIDEOUSLY. SEVERAL DETECTIVES FEARED A TREND, BUT IT WAS HOPED THE SIMILARITY WAS A COINCIDENCE.



WHEN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY STARTED OUT WITH ANOTHER GROTESQUE MURDER OF A COMICS CODE OFFICIAL, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT IT WAS THE SAME KILLER USING THE SAME FRIGHTFUL METHODS.

AS IN ALL CASES, THERE WERE NO REAL CLUES. THE FINGERPRINTS DIDN'T MATCH UP TO ANY KNOWN CRIMINALS, AND THERE WERE NO WITNESSES.
IT'S IN THIS VICINITY THAT THE CRIMES WERE COMMITTED. WE'RE PREPARED TO OFFER POLICE PROTECTION TO ALL COMICS CODE WORKERS. I CAN CALL AND...
INTRIGUED BY THE CRIMES AND THE FACT THAT ALL THE VICTIMS WERE COMICS CODE PERSONNEL, BETMAN AND ROBBIN WENT TO THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE TO LEND THEIR HELP.
DEAR GOD! LET'S GET GOING ROBBIN!
BUT BETMAN!
WAIT-A-MINUTE, WHAT IS IT BETMAN?
THE NEWS CARRIED A STORY RECENTLY ABOUT A COMICS CODE OFFICIAL WHO LIVES IN THE KANE HOTEL. LOOK AT THE MAP, IT'S RIGHT IN THE AREA OF THE KILLINGS!
DESPERATELY BETMAN AND ROBBIN RACED THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY IN THE BETMOBILE... PRAYING THEY WOULD BE IN TIME.
DUKE'S RESTAURANT
BIJOU
NEWS/MAGAZINES PAPER / CIGARS ART SUPPLIES
JOE ROTA
ROBBIN, WE BETTER GO DIRECTLY TO HIS ROOM.
SCREAMS, COMING FROM THAT ALLEY BETMAN!
BETTER GO SEE WHAT IT IS.
AA AAR RRGH
AARRGH
IT COULD BE A RUSE THOUGH, I'LL CHECK THE ALLEY, YOU LOOK AFTER THE COMICS CODE OFFICIAL ROBBIN.
GOOD LUCK, BETMAN!

THAT'S THE ALLEY UP AHEAD. STRANGE THAT A STEAMROLLER SHOULD BE PARKED THERE, I DON'T SEE ANY CONSTRUCTION GOING ON IN THIS AREA.
REITHERT REALTY
GOOD THING I BROUGHT MY BAT-LIGHT.
THERE'S SOMEONE ... NO TWO PEOPLE AT THE END OF THE ALLEY. GOOD LORD!
IT'S FIGHTIN' AMERIKAN AND SPEDBOY./ BOTH OF THEM WITH AN ICE-PICK STUCK IN THEIR (CHOMP) HEART./
WITH THE DEATH OF THE TWO SUPER-HEROES THE MURDERS HAD TAKEN ON A DECIDEDLY NEW TREND. UNFORTUNATELY FOR BETMAN HIS PROBLEMS WERE JUST BEGINNING.
WHERE IS THAT LIGHT COMING FROM?
IT'S THE STEAMROLLER THAT WAS PARKED OUTSIDE THE ALLEY, COMING TOWARD ME... THE LIGHTS ARE BLINDING...
RRR
UMBLE
WHAT CAN I DO?!
RRRRR
3

TO BE CONTINUED...

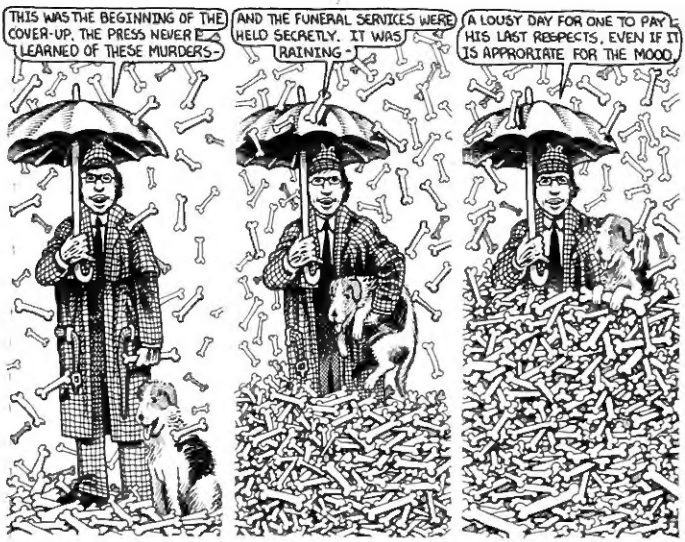
twilight of the heroes

ART AND STORY BY RON WILBER-'77
SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM VAN HISE
ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS OR CHARACTORS LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY INTENDED.
In the first chapter in RBCC #137 I revealed how a cover-up began in 1955 concerning the deaths between then and 1964 of many popular super heroes and Comics Code officials. In the first chapter Betman began investigating the murders of three Comics Code officials only two discover 2 murdered super-heroes. We left him as we see below...
AND REMEMBER THIS... IT REALLY HAPPENED!
part-I
"last respects"

TO BE CONTINUED...

twilight of the heroes
part 1
CONTINUED
THE HUMIN TARCH!
SHOOSH!
BAM!
WHAM!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT BETMAN?! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
NEVER MIND ME, I WANT TO KNOW WHO WAS DRIVING THAT STEAMROLLER!!
IT'S THE COMICS CODE OFFICIAL WE WERE COMING TO PROTECT- STABBED WITH AN ICE-PICK!
WE?
YES ROBBIN... GOOD LORD ROBBIN, I SENT HIM UP TO THAT MANS OFFICE! I HAVE TO FIND ROBBIN, LETS GO!
WHAT ABOUT FIGHTIN' AMERIKAN AND SPED-BOY? WHAT HA-
LATER!
4.

SO BETMAN AND THE HUMIN TARCH RAN UP TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMICS CODE OFFICIAL. BETMAN TRUSTED ROBBIN'S ABILITY TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF WOULD KEEP HIM SAFE FROM HARM.
THIS IS THE ROOM.
THERE'S SOMEONE IN THERE...
IT'S KAPTAIN AMERIKA!
KAP- WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
KAP DIDN'T SAY A WORD, HE JUST STOOD THERE STARING AT THE WALL, TEARS CLOUDING HIS VISION, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO BLOCK OUT THE TERRIBLE SIGHT BEFORE HIM.
WHAT IS IT KA-
GASP!
CHOKE!
AGAINST THE WALL, SPREAD-EAGLED WAS TARO, BOCKY, AND ROBBIN WITH THROWING KNIVES, ICE-PICKS, AND MEAT CLEAVERS STICKING IN THEIR BODIES. BETMAN, KAPTAIN AMERIKA, AND THE HUMIN-TARCH STOOD IN MUTE SILENCE STUNNED BY THE HORRIBLE VISION OF THEIR YOUTHFUL SIDEKICKS SO BRUTALLY MURDERED.


THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE COVER-UP. THE PRESS NEVER LEARNED OF THESE MURDERS-
AND THE FUNERAL SERVICES WERE HELD SECRETLY. IT WAS RAINING-
A LOUSY DAY FOR ONE TO PAY HIS LAST RESPECTS, EVEN IF IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE MOOD.

BOCKY WAS MISSING, I COULDN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE. I FINALLY FOUND HIM-

AT THE KANE HOTEL...
DEAD.
KR-

KR-K-K-UM!!
THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO TARO -
WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS?
TO THINK, I SENT ROBBIN TO THAT ROOM-

TO HIS DEATH!
KA-BOOM!

MY, MY, SUCH STARK DRAMA, ANYWAY, A SCREAM SUDDENLY PIERCED THE RAIN SOAKED AIR.
MMM! EVEREST!

KRACK!
KH DOM!
AAAAARRRGGHH!!
A SCREAM!
IT'S COMING FROM THAT OLD HOUSE!
C'MON LET'S GO!

END OF PART I

twilight of the heroes

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ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS OR CHARACTORS LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY INTENDED.

In part one (RBCC #137 & 139) I revealed how a cover-up began in 1955 concerning the deaths between then and 1964 of many super-heroes and Comics Code officials. Betman began investigating and became more deeply involved when his youthful sidekick was murdered along with those of two other super-heroes.

AND REMEMBER THIS... IT REALLY HAPPENED!

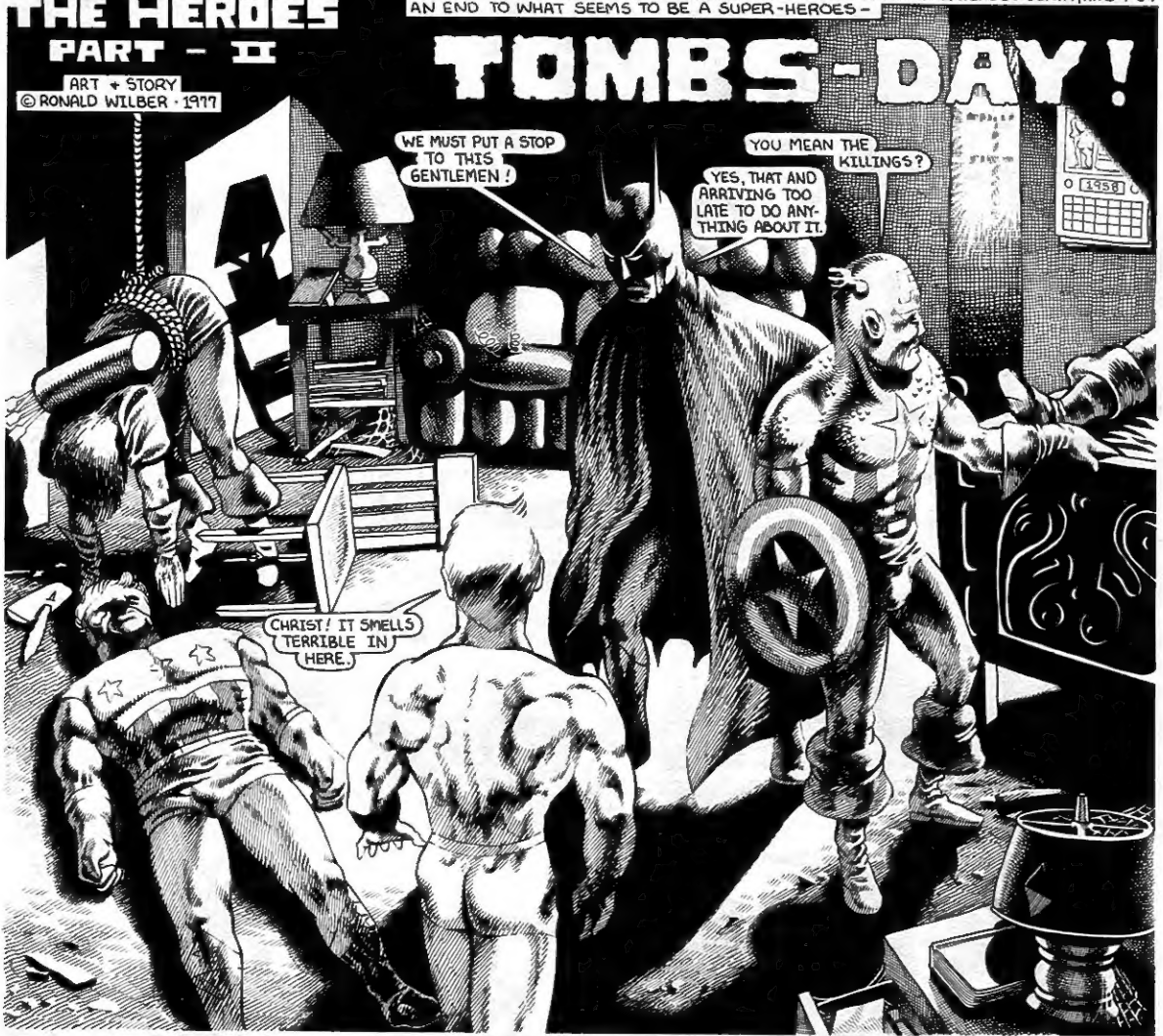
TO BE CONTINUED...

TWILIGHT OF THE HEROES
PART - II

ART + STORY
© RONALD WILBER · 1977

ONCE MORE KAPTAIN AMERIKA, BETMAN, AND THE HUMIN TARCH CAME UPON A SCENE OF HORROR, UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING EXCEPT GRIT THEIR TEETH AND SEARCH FOR CLUES, FOR ANY SCRAP OF INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT HELP THEM PREVENT ANOTHER HEROES DEATH, AND PUT AN END TO WHAT SEEMS TO BE A SUPER-HEROES-

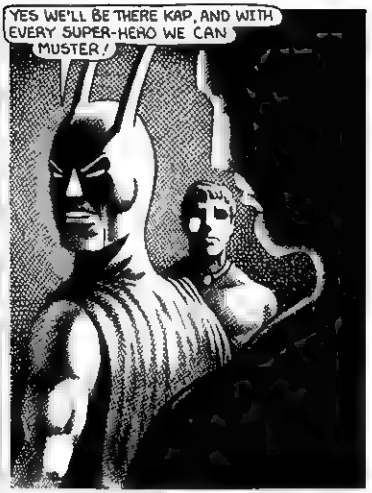
TOMBS-DAY!


WE MUST PUT A STOP TO THIS GENTLEMEN!
YOU MEAN THE KILLINGS?
YES, THAT AND ARRIVING TOO LATE TO DO ANY-THING ABOUT IT.
1958
CHRIST! IT SMELLS TERRIBLE IN HERE.

SPEADY IS TIED TO SOME SORT OF BELL-ROPE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS DUMP NEEDED WITH A BELL.
MAYBE AT ONE TIME THEY HAD SERVENTS HERE.

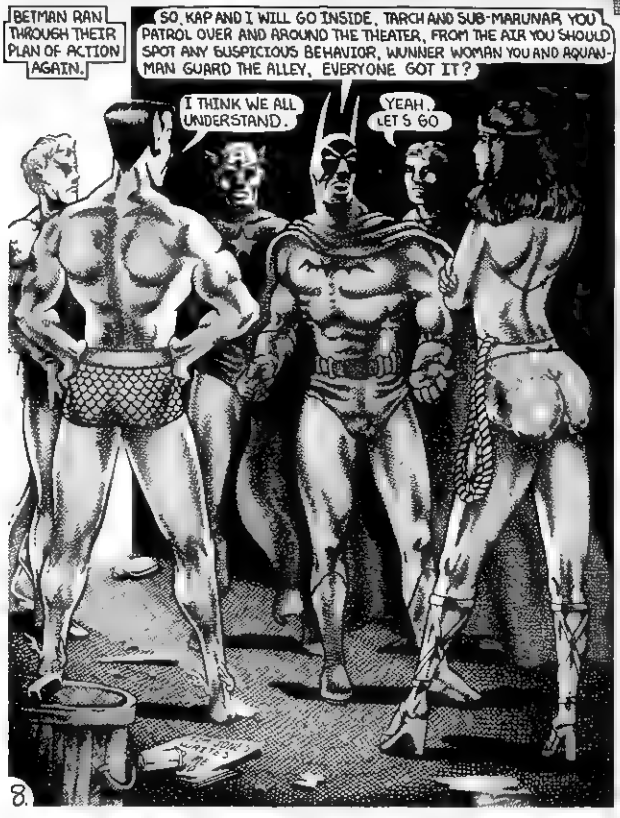
WAIT-A-MINUTE, THERE'S A PAPER ON THE BACK OF THE DOOR!
C'MON DON'T KEEP US IN SUSPENSE.
WHAT IS IT BETMAN?

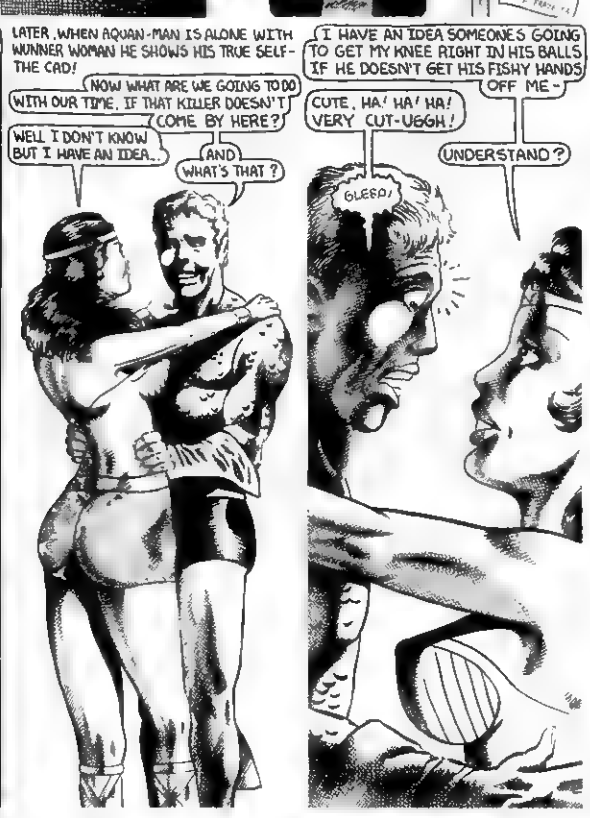
IT SEEMS OUR KILLER HAS FINALLY LEFT US SOMETHING TO GO ON. THIS IS A CLIPPING FROM TODAYS PAPER ABOUT A CONCERT BEING HELD TOMORROW.
TOMORROW! THIS IS OUR FIRST CLUE! WE HAVE TO GO TH-


YES WE'LL BE THERE KAP, AND WITH EVERY SUPER-HERO WE CAN MUSTER!

WELL, UNFORTUNATEY THEY COULDN'T 'MUSTER' MANY HEROES. IT WASN'T THAT THE OTHER HEROES WERE APATHETIC, THEY WERE ALREADY ON OTHER CASES AND COULD NOT BE REACHED.
THEY WERE, HOWEVER, ABLE TO ENLIST THE AIDE OF WUNNER WOMAN, SUB-MARUNAR, AND AQUAN-MAN, THAT ISN'T TOO BAD. BESIDES, TWO OF THOSE GUYS SURE CAN SWIM - TOO BAD THEY WEREN'T GOING TO THE BEACH.
BETMAN THOUGHT THE CRIMES WERE COMMITTED BY COMMUNISTS. AFTER ALL, HADN'T NOTED COMMIE FIGHTERS FIGHTIN' AMERIKAN AND SPEDBOY, AND EVEN BOCKY BEEN DONE IN?

TAKE YOUR DOG TO LUNCH.
HUMIN TARCH AND KAPTAIN AMERIKA HAD OTHER IDEAS. THE KILLER HAD JUST LEFT A CLUE, PERHAPS IT WAS THE JOKAR OR THE RIDDLOR.
AT ANY RATE, THEY SOON GATHERED ALL THEIR FORCES IN THE ALLEY BEHIND THE THEATER.


BETMAN RAN THROUGH THEIR PLAN OF ACTION AGAIN.
SO, KAP AND I WILL GO INSIDE, TARCH AND SUB-MARUNAR YOU PATROL OVER AND AROUND THE THEATER, FROM THE AIR YOU SHOULD SPOT ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR, WUNNER WOMAN YOU AND AQUAN-MAN GUARD THE ALLEY, EVERYONE GOT IT?
I THINK WE ALL UNDERSTAND.
YEAH, LET'S GO


LATER, WHEN AQUAN-MAN IS ALONE WITH WUNNER WOMAN HE SHOWS HIS TRUE SELF-THE CAD!
NOW WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH OUR TIME, IF THAT KILLER DOESN'T COME BY HERE?
WELL I DON'T KNOW BUT I HAVE AN IDEA..
AND WHAT'S THAT?
I HAVE AN IDEA SOMEONES GOING TO GET MY KNEE RIGHT IN HIS BALLS IF HE DOESN'T GET HIS FISHY HANDS OFF ME-
CUTE, HA! HA! HA! VERY CUT-UGGH!
UNDERSTAND?
GLEEP!

MEANWHILE INSIDE THE THEATER
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN- ELVIS PRESLEY!
THANKYOU LADEES N GEMLEMEN
YAY! CLAP! CLAP!
YAY! CLAP! CLAP!
YAY!
YAY! CLAP! CLAP!
YAY! CLAP! CLAP!
OHH ELVIS (SIGH)
WELL SINCE MY BABY LEFT ME...
WHO IS THIS GUY ?
HE'S A SINGER.
THANKS BETMAN, I REALLY NEEDED YOU TO TELL ME THAT.
GLAD TO HELP.
VERY FUNNY
I FOUND A NEW PLACE TO DWELL...
LOOK KAP, SOMEONE IN A CLOAK - DEAR GOD - HE'S GOT A KNIFE!
WHERE I DON'T
POP CORN
I'M GOING AFTER HIM, I'M SURE THATS OUR KILLER!
WAIT BETM- LOOK OUT! HE THREW HIS KNIFE!
BETMAN!
WELL ITS DOWN AT THE END OF LONELY STREET AT HEARTBREAK HOTEL
IT'S BEEN SO LONELY, BABY. SO LONELY, BABY. BABY SO LONELY... I COULD DIE.
BETMAN!
HEY C'MON, SIT DOWN I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING
WHERE ELVIS?
THEY'RE RUINING THE SHOW
WILL YOU GUYS COOL IT AND SIT DOWN HUH?
WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?
SIT DOWN WILL YA?
OHH ELVIS!
BOP MAN-BOP!

CONTINUED

twilight of the heroes

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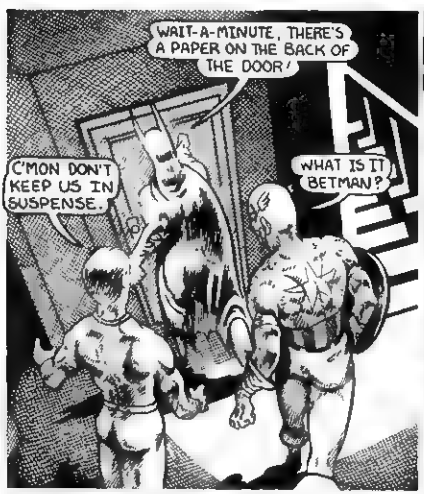
SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM VAN HISE
ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS OR CHARACTORS LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY INTENDED.

In RBCC #137,139&140 I revealed how a cover-up began in 1955 concerning the deaths between then and 1964 of many super-heroes. Betman investigated and his sidekick was murdered. Last issue we saw Betman felled by a hurled knife. Who will be the next hero to die, and more importantly, why?

AND REMEMBER THIS... IT REALLY HAPPENED!



IT SEEMS OUR KILLER HAS FINALLY LEFT US SOMETHING TO GO ON. THIS IS A CLIPPING FROM TODAYS PAPER ABOUT A CONCERT BEING HELD TOMORROW.
TOMORROW! THIS IS OUR FIRST CLUE - WE HAVE TO GO TH-

IT'S BEEN SO LONELY, BABY, SO LONELY, BABY BABY SO LONELY... I COULD DIE
BETMAN!
HEY, C'MON MAN I SIT DOWN I CAN'T SEE ANY THING
WHERE ELVIS?
HEY'RE RUINING THE SHOW
WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?
SIT DOWN WILL YA?
YOU GUYS COOL IT AND SIT DOWN HUH?
ELVIS!
BOP-MAN BOP!

WHILE IN THE SKY..
I'M GOING TO LAND AND TAKE A LOOK AROUND NOMOR.
A-RIGHT TARCH
NOTHINGS GOING TA' HAPPEN HERE TO-NIGHT, WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.
PROBABLY NOTHING ON T.V. ANYWAY. LIFE CAN SURE BE DULL- WAIT, WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
GR
NO NO
AAR
ARRRRR
RRRRGGGGGGHHHHH*
RRROAOR!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE THE HUMIN TARCH!
A SCREAM, BUT WHO?
I DON'T-UNNH-KNOW WHYD' YUH HAFTA' KICK ME?
SHUT-UP.
IT STOPPED
THAT DOES IT, NO CHRISTMAS CARD FROM ME THIS YEAR!
IS THE TARCH HERE?
NO.
ARE YOU AFRAID THAT SCREAM WAS HIM?
I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH YOU
AND NO BIM-CARO ESTHER
I WISH HE WAS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO AQUAN-MAN HE LOOKS LIKE HE JUST GOT KICKED IN THE-
NEVER MIND THAT, I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMIN TARCH.
GRROWLL
GET UP AQUAN-MAN, YOU LOOK LIKE A FOOL!
YES MA'M! BITCH
NOW WHAT SOUND IS THAT- ITS LIKE A WILD BEAST.
SUB-MARINAR LANDED IN THE DARKENED ALLEY. HIS HOPES THAT THE TARCH MIGHT BE HERE, STILL ALIVE, SHATTERED. ONCE ENEMIES, THAT WAS NOW IN THE PAST, AND NOMOR WORRIED ABOUT HIS FRIEND.

TWILIGHT OF THE HEROES
PART II CONTINUED
ART & STORY ©1978 RONALD WILBER
IN THE SMALL AMOUNT OF LIGHT THAT LEAKED INTO THE ALLEY THEY SAW THE SOURCE OF THE SOUND - AN AWESOME MONSTER - WHO LEAPT AT THE SUB-MARUNAR AS HE STOOD PETRIFIED BY THE SUDDENESS OF THE ATTACK!
RRROAR
A LION WITH THE HEAD OF A MAN!
IT'S A... A SPHINX!
YES DEAR READERS, THE LEGENDARY SPHINX OF EGYPT! BUT WHAT IS IT DOING HERE? WHAT IS ITS CONNECTION WITH THE MURDERS?? JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON??? THESE AND MANY OTHER QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE ANSWERED IN THIS INSTALLMENT!!!!
IT'S STRENGTH IS INCREDIBLE -
GRROWLL
AND SO IS ITS BREATH, PHEW!
YOU'LL REGRET THIS DAY MONSTER!
I HOPE

C'MON AQUAN-MAN WE HAVE TO HELP NOMOR!!!
WUNNER WOMAN SWUNG HER MAGIC LASSO.
RRR!?!
GOT HIM!
SWISH!
MY COSTUME!
RIIPP!
BUT THE SPHINX WAS TOO QUICK, TOO POWERFUL, AND WITH ONE SWIPE OF HIS PAW HE MADE SHREDS OUT OF THE ROPE AMONG OTHER THINGS.
HURRY UP AQUAN-MAN HELP NOMOR HE'S IN TROUBLE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
FIRST I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE ALRIGHT.
LET ME CHECK AND SEE
DAMMIT!
YOU NEVER STOP DO YOU?!!
PERVERT!!!
I NEVER HAVE ANY FUN ARRGH!
SOCK O!
HA HA HA HA HA
THAT AQUAN-MAN REALLY CRACKS ME UP — WHAT A MORON- WOT A MOROON!!!
WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!
AND WHAT OF SUB-MARUNAR MUST HE FIGHT THE SPHINX ALONE? WILL WUNNER WOMAN MERELY GIVE MORAL SUPPORT, OR WILL SHE GET THE SUPPORT SHE NEEDS, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY WILL I EVER FINISH THIS DAMN STRIP?!!! FIND OUT NEXT TIME (MAYBE).
GROWLL!

END OF PART II

twilight of the heroes

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SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM VAN HISE

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In RBCC #'s 137 & 139-141 I revealed how a cover-up began in 1955 concerning the deaths between then and 1964 of many super heroes. Betman began the investigation and his sidekick was killed along with others. Last issue some heroes were attacked by the strange beast below. What will happen next?

AND REMEMBER THIS... IT REALLY HAPPENED!

TWILIGHT OF THE HEROES
PART III
"WHO DOUGHNUT?"
WELL THE BELLHOPS TEARS KEEP FALLING, AND THE DESK CLERKS DRESSED IN BLACK
ART & STORY
RONALD WILBER 1978
ELVIS!
AHHH YAY
SHREEK
OOOH ELVIS
PLEASE LET ME THROUGH!
WELL THEY'VE BEEN SO LONG DOWN ON LONELY STREET THAT THEY'LL NEVER- THEY'LL NEVER GET BACK-
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE, INTO THE ALLEY.
AND THEY'VE BEEN SO LONELY BABY - BEEN SO LONELY BABY - SO LONELY THEY COULD DIE.
EEEEE ELVIS
AT LAST
EXIT

CLAP!
HOORAY ELVIS!
CLAP!
CLAP!
I DON'T THINK I COULD CARRY HIM MUCH LONGER.
THIS GUY IS HEAVY.
KAPTAIN AMERIKA!
THAT'S MY NAME.
HEY SURFACE-DWELLERS, HOWS ABOUT LENDING ME A HAND?
GRROARRR!
GOOD LORD!!! WHAT HAPPENED TO BETMAN?!!
A KNIFE IN THE CHEST — WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR COSTUME?!!
THAT BEAST TORE IT!!!
YOU MUST HELP NOMOR DEFEAT THAT MONSTER!
TREMENDOUS.
YES IT IS A LARGE MONSTER.
THEY SURE ARE.
AREN'T THOSE SUPER-HEROES DISGUSTING? A BUNCH OF REAL CHAUVINISTS! BUT I HAVE TO SWALLOW HARD AND DEPICT THIS STUFF, CAUSE IT'S ALL IN THESE FILES AND IT'S THE TRUTH. YOU SHOULD SEE SOME OF THE STUFF JIM AND I DECIDED WASN'T FIT TO PRINT.
LISTEN, DO YOU THINK I LIKE DRAWING STUFF LIKE YOU SEE ON THIS PAGE? A BIG BREASTED HALF-NAKED WOMAN, YOU THINK I LIKE THAT??!!
WOOF! WOOF!
SHUT-UP, NO ONE ASKED YOU.
I THINK HE HAS A CHANCE.
YOU DO?
WELL, A MILLION TO ONE, BUT A CHANCE.
YEAH... I GUESS.
I'M GOING TO HELP NOMOR, DO YOUR BREAST - A ER BEST TO MAKE HIM COMFORTABLE.

I'LL HAVE TO TRY AND GET ON THE MONSTERS BACK, AND BREAK HIS NECK!
GRROARR
NOW, HOW TO HELP SUB-MARUNAR, I HAD TO LEAVE MY SHIELD BEHIND TO CARRY BETMAN-
WAIT-A-MINUTE-THAT'S IT..
WUNNER WOMAN, THROW ME THAT KNIFE THAT'S STUCK IN BETMAN!
I CAN USE IT AS A WEAPON.
FINALLY, IT'S DEAD, I JUST HOPE I DIDN'T HURT MYSELF.
CRACK
HEY I KILLED THE MONSTER-I EEFCH
ON SECOND THOUGHT YOU BETTER NOT THROW - THE KNIFE.
THUD
WHIZ
SUB-MARUNAR, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU BEFORE YOU DIE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TO DIE OF OLD AGE.
NOMOR - I'M SO SORRY!
IT'S NOT YOU'RE FAULT, I KNEW WHEN I GOT UP THIS MORNING I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN BED - IT JUST WASN'T MY DAY
SUFFERIN' SHAD, FIRST BETMAN AND NOW NOMOR.
I FEEL LIKE IT'S MY FAULT...
AND IT'S YOUR FAULT-
HEY, YOU TOLD ME TO THROW THAT KNIFE!
WHO SAID YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO ME?
YOU BASTARD!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE?
DOES THIS MEAN THE ANSWER IS NO?
STOP CRYING, I HAVE AN IDEA FOR SOMETHING WE CAN DO, BUT I NEED YOUR ANSWER FIRST.
SOB SOB SOB
(WHISPER-WHISPER-PSSST-HISST-MUMBLE-MUMBLE.)
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK TO PARADISE ISLAND-
AND AWAY FROM CREEPS LIKE YOU!
KA-POW!

CONTINUED...

twilight of the heroes

ART AND STORY BY RON WILBER '98
SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM VAN HISE

ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS OR CHARACTORS LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY INTENDED

Someone is killing the Comics Code officials (not to mention a few stray super-heroes as well!) and thus far I have revealed how a cover-up of this began, hiding, until now, the true events of this case which occured from 1955-1964. Clues have been revealed and last issue we saw Wunner Woman become Blunder Woman when she accidentally killed Namor!

IT REALLY HAPPENED!

NOW, HOW TO HELP SUB-MARUNAR. I HAD TO LEAVE MY SHIELD BEHIND TO CARRY BETMAN-
WAIT-A-MINUTE-THAT'S IT...
WUNNER WOMAN, THROW ME THAT KNIFE THAT'S STUCK IN BETMAN!
I CAN USE IT AS A WEAPON

SUB-MARUNAR, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU BEFORE YOU DIE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
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NOMOR - I'M SO SORRY!
IT'S NOT YOU'RE FAULT, I KNEW WHEN I GOT UP THIS MORNING I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN BED - IT JUST WASN'T MY DAY.

SUFFERIN' SHAD, FIRST BETMAN AND NOW NOMOR.
I FEEL LIKE IT'S MY FAULT...
AND IT'S YOUR FAULT-
HEY, YOU TOLD ME TO THROW THAT KNIFE!
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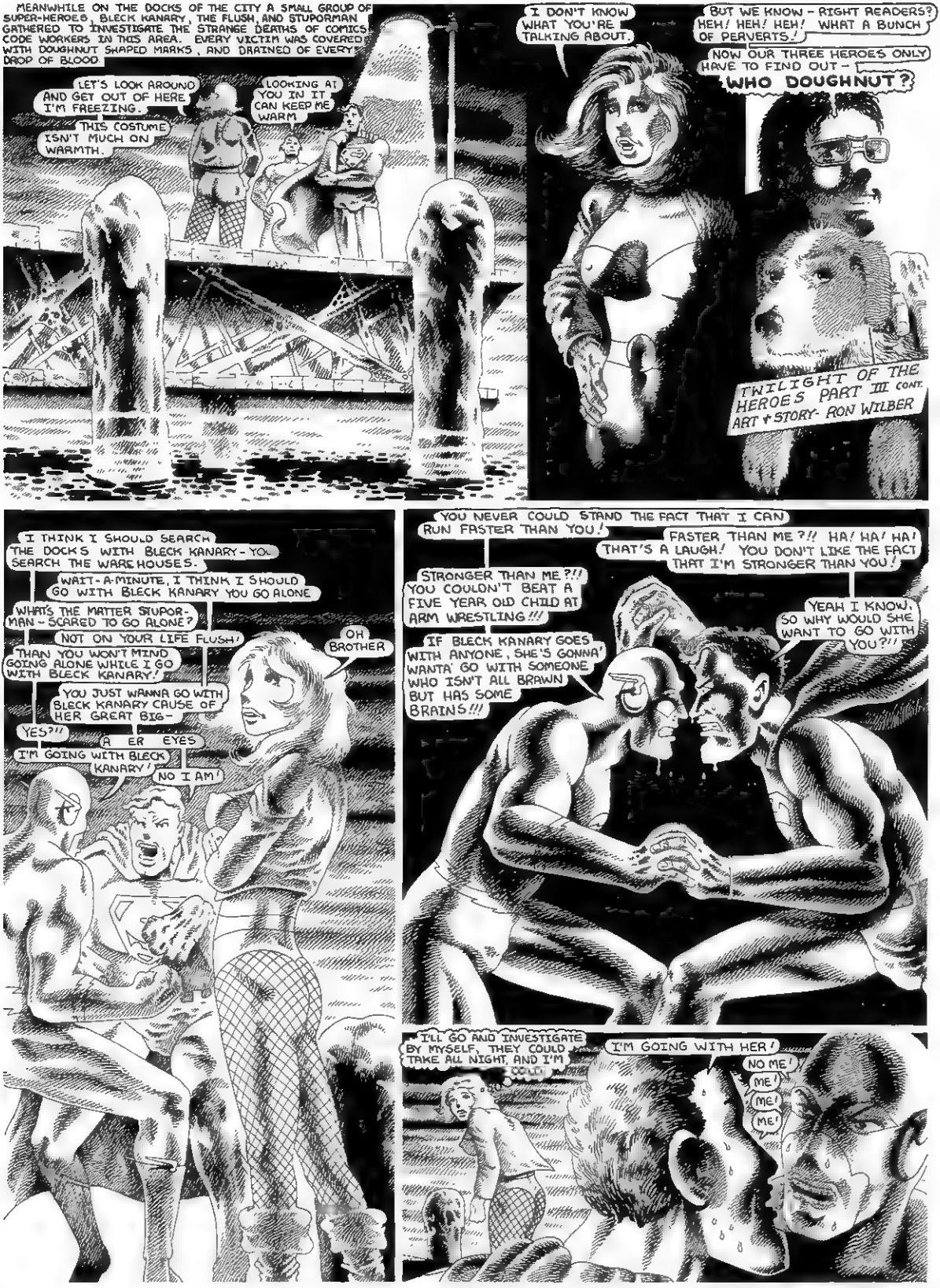
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE?


MEANWHILE ON THE DOCKS OF THE CITY A SMALL GROUP OF SUPER-HEROES, BLECK KANARY, THE FLUSH, AND STUPORMAN GATHERED TO INVESTIGATE THE STRANGE DEATHS OF COMICS CODE WORKERS IN THIS AREA. EVERY VICTIM WAS COVERED WITH DOUGHNUT SHAPED MARKS, AND DRAINED OF EVERY DROP OF BLOOD.
LET'S LOOK AROUND AND GET OUT OF HERE. I'M FREEZING.
LOOKING AT YOU IN IT CAN KEEP ME WARM
THIS COSTUME ISN'T MUCH ON WARMTH.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
BUT WE KNOW - RIGHT READERS? HEH! HEH! HEH! WHAT A BUNCH OF PERVERTS!
NOW OUR THREE HEROES ONLY HAVE TO FIND OUT - WHO DOUGHNUT?
TWILIGHT OF THE HEROES PART III CONT.
ART + STORY- RON WILBER
I THINK I SHOULD SEARCH THE DOCKS WITH BLECK KANARY - YOU SEARCH THE WARE HOUSES.
WAIT-A-MINUTE, I THINK I SHOULD GO WITH BLECK KANARY YOU GO ALONE
WHAT'S THE MATTER STUPORMAN - SCARED TO GO ALONE?
NOT ON YOUR LIFE FLUSH!
OH BROTHER
THAN YOU WON'T MIND GOING ALONE WHILE I GO WITH BLECK KANARY!
YOU JUST WANNA GO WITH BLECK KANARY CAUSE OF HER GREAT BIG-
A ER EYES
YES?!!
I'M GOING WITH BLECK KANARY!
NO I AM!
YOU NEVER COULD STAND THE FACT THAT I CAN RUN FASTER THAN YOU!
FASTER THAN ME?!! HA! HA! HA! THAT'S A LAUGH! YOU DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT I'M STRONGER THAN YOU!
STRONGER THAN ME?!! YOU COULDN'T BEAT A FIVE YEAR OLD CHILD AT ARM WRESTLING!!!
YEAH I KNOW, SO WHY WOULD SHE WANT TO GO WITH YOU?!!
IF BLECK KANARY GOES WITH ANYONE, SHE'S GONNA WANTA GO WITH SOMEONE WHO ISN'T ALL BRAWN BUT HAS SOME BRAINS!!!
I'LL GO AND INVESTIGATE BY MYSELF, THEY COULD TAKE ALL NIGHT, AND I'M COLD!
I'M GOING WITH HER!
NO ME!
ME!
ME!
ME!

I WONDER WHAT THE FANS OF THOSE TWO IDIOTS WOULD THINK IF THEY COULD SEE HOW THEY CARRY ON?
HANDLE WITH CARE!
THIS END UP!
NOW WHO IS THAT AT THE END OF THE PIER?
IT'S GOT TO BE EITHER SOME NUT WHO LIKES IT HERE OR... MAYBE OUR KILLER?
SIR, I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU..
PLEASE SIR
HEY BUDDY, TURN AROUND, THIS IS BLECK KANARY SPEAKING!
ALRIGHT C'MON YOU'RE GOING TO VISIT WITH MY FRIENDS STUPORMAN AND THE FLUSH - DYA' HEAR ME?
DYA' HEAR - HEY WHAT IS THIS - WHAT ARE YOU?!!
SSHREEEEEEK!
KLUNK!
SWISH
SWISH
WHUMP

DID THAT SCREAM SOUND LIKE BLECK KANARY?
BLECK WHO?
YOU KNOW, THE GIRL WITH THE GREAT BIG...
OH - THAT BLECK KANARY.
MAYBE ONE OF US SHOULD GO CHECK?
OKAY, GO AHEAD!
I WAS THINKING OF YOU!
ME? WHY ME?
WELL, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE WHO'S SO DAMNED STRONG!
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAN RUN REAL FAST!
HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA - WHY NOT GO ALPHABETICALLY?
IN THAT CASE, I GO FIRST!
OKAY! SOUNDS FAIR-
THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!
I CAN'T STAND THAT GUY - NOW WHO'S THAT UP AHEAD?
WHIZZZZZZ
ZOOMM!
WHIZZ
YIKES IT'S A MONSTER!!!
SCREEECCCHH
SCREEECCH
GANGWAY - A MONSTER!!!
WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR SHOULDER?
IT LOOKS LIKE A TENTACLE...
HUH?
WELL, WHAT DYA' KNOW- IT IS A TENTACLE!
HELP!! SOME MONSTER HAS ME!!!
IT'S NO MONSTER JUST A GIANT OCTOPUS, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT A -
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL IT, IT'S SUCKING THE BLOOD OUT OF MY BODY!!!
HELP!!!
TO BE CONTINUED!

twilight of the heroes

ART AND STORY BY RON WILBER '78
SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM VAN HISE

ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS OR CHARACTORS LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY INTENDED.

Someone is killing the Comics Code officials (not to mention a few stray super-heroes as well!) and thus far I have revealed how a cover-up of this began, hiding, until now, the true events of this case which occurred from 1955-1964. Clues have been revealed and last issue we saw a mysterious killer revealed to be an Octopus in a trench-coat!

IT REALLY HAPPENED!

WELL, WHAT DYA' KNOW- IT IS A TENTACLE!
HELP!! SOME MONSTER HAS ME!!!
IT'S NO MONSTER JUST A GIANT OCTOPUS, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT A -
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL IT, IT'S SUCKING THE BLOOD OUT OF MY BODY!!!
HELP!!!

HELP!!! ÷CHOKE÷ GASP!!!
I'M GOING TO HIT THIS SLIMY THING OKAY FLUSH?
GHAK! ÷CHOKE÷ GASP!!! SPUTTER!!!!
NO COMMENT HUH?
SPLAT!
ZOOM!
MAYBE I PUT TOO MUCH FORCE IN THAT PUNCH?
IT DIDN'T HELP FLUSH MUCH, HE'S DONE FOR.
THIS IS TERRIBLE-
LOOK AT HOW MESSED UP MY COSTUME IS -
JUST TERRIBLE!
I'LL HAVE TO GO HOME AND CHANGE
MEAN-WHILE
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS - LOOK AT THEM FOLLOW THAT SINGER!!!
YEAH, HE MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF APPEAL!
THEY SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN WE'RE HERE.
ELVIS!
ELVIS!
ELVIS!
IF THEY EVEN KNOW WHO WE ARE.
I KNOW
WHAT DO YOU WANT LITTLE GIR-AAAAG!!!
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU'RE THAT JERK WHO TRIED TO RUIN THE CONCERT!
KICK!
HA! HA! HA' - OH DEAR, I SHOULDN'T LAUGH AT YOUR BUDDY SHOULD I AQUAN-MAN?
THATS ALRIGHT, YOU'RE MY BUDDY TOO - I MIGHT SAY MY BOSOM BUDDY
OWWW! YOU KNOW, I HATE KIDS!
HAVE I MILKED ENOUGH HUMOR OUT OF WUNNER WOMAN'S BOSOM?

END OF PART III

I'M TURNING MY BACK ON THIS WHOLE SUPER-HERO BUSINESS, AND SO IS MY DOG. I THOUGHT THE TOPLESS WUNNER WOMAN SEGMENT WAS PRETTY TASTELESS AND THIS SEGMENT ISN'T MUCH BETTER. HOWEVER, JIM VAN HISE (WORLD FAMOUS FANZINE PUBLISHER - EDITOR) AND MYSELF, RONALD WILBER (BOY-WONDER COMIC ARTIST) HAVE OUR INTEGRITY AND HAVE DECIDED TO PRESENT THIS EPISODE EXACTLY AS THE OLD FILES RECORD IT. IF ANYONE IS OFFENDED I'M SORRY, BUT THE TRUTH MUST COME OUT.

THE TIME IS THE EARLY 1960'S AND THE PLACE IS THE BAXTUH BUILDING WHERE THE SUPER-HEROES ARE THROWING A PARTY. YOU SEE, THERE HADN'T BEEN ANY MURDERS SINCE THE DEATHS OF THE SPHINX AND THE OCTOPUS KILLER, SO THE HEROES BELIEVED THE MURDERS HAD COME TO AN END. THE PARTY WAS A CELEBRATION OF THEIR VICTORY OVER THESE BIZARRE MONSTERS.

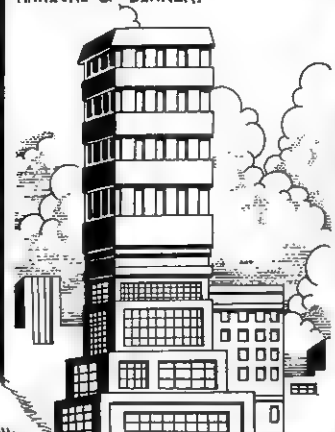
I SHOULD NOTE TOO, THAT ON HIS WAY TO THIS PARTY JLA MEMBER THE MARTIAN MANHANDLER WAS STRUCK AND KILLED BY A CAR. THE ATUM WAS KILLED IN THE SAME ACCIDENT - HE WAS IN THE MARTIAN MANHANDLERS POCKET. THIS APPARENTLY HAD NO CONNECTION TO THE OTHER KILLINGS, BUT IT'S INTERESTING THAT THE POLICE DISCOVERED THAT THE MARTIAN MANHANDLER WAS NEITHER FROM MARS OR GREEN. ACCORDING TO POLICE RECORDS HE WAS, "JUST A NUT WHO LIKED TO COLOR HIMSELF GREEN - ALL OVER." THE POLICE ALSO FOUND OUT THAT THE ATUM DID NOT HAVE THE POWER TO SHRINK HIS SIZE, HE WAS - AS THE REPORT STATES, "JUST NATURALLY SHORT."

MOST OF THE HEROES AT THE PARTY WERE OF A NEW GROUP THAT CALLED THEMSELVES MARBLE SUPERHEROES, BUT OF COURSE A.C. IRRATIONAL HEROES WERE ALSO THERE. IN FACT, THERE WERE SO MANY DIFFERENT CHARACTERS IT WAS HARD NOT TO CONFUSE THAT LITTLE PIGGY WITH -

"THIS LITTLE PIGGY..."

ART AND STORY BY THAT CONNOISSEUR GOURMET RONALD WILBER - 78
(THAT'S WILBER WITH AN 'ER' NOT A 'UR' FOLKS !!!)

INSIDE THE BAXTUH BUILDING THE MANY HEROES CALMLY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF DINNER.



ANYONE GOT A CAN-OPENER?
I'M NOT PARANOID, I JUST KNOW FOR A FACT THAT EVERYONE HERE HATES ME!
BOY- IS IT HOT IN HERE! I CAN'T TAKE IT TORSH.
I'M SUCH A LITTLE ANGEL
VERILY, IF WE DOTH NOT EAT SOON MY STOMACH SHALL BE MIGHTY SORE!
SOME LEMONADE SIR?
GOOD LORD NO! IT'S YELLOW!
THAT'S FUNNY ICEY-MAN, I'M JUST COMFORTABLE
I SHOULD CALL AUNT MAE!
THEY CALL ME THE BEASTIAL! SO, I HOP AROUND LIKE AN ANIMAL - DOES THAT MAKE ME BEASTIAL?
WELL, HELLO KAP! WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE DEATHS OF THOSE MONSTERS?
YOU KNOW, IT WAS US A.C. HEROES WHO DID ALL THE WORK.
YOU MARBLE HEROES WERE WORTHLESS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT MY FRIEND?
URP!
MUMBLE - MUMBLE - PSSST — WHISPER — PSSST - PSST - WHISPER - MUMBLE
HA! HA! HA! HA! — I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THE CONSERVATIVE MR READ RICHEROS WOULD EVER DO THAT!
HA! HA! IT'S TRUE.
HA! HA! HA!
LET ME TELL YOU — SEW AND HONK-GIRL- I DON'T CALL THE BEASTIAL - BEASTIAL- JUST BECAUSE OF HIS MUTANT ANIMAL POWERS.
OH REALLY... TELL US ALL ABOUT IT.

EVENTUALLY DINNER WAS BROUGHT IN, COVERED TO KEEP IT WARM OF COURSE
JESUS, THIS THING IS HEAVY- WHAT'S IN HERE LEAD BARS?
I DUNNO - IT'S LIKE A DEAD WEIGHT
BUT WHEN THE MAIN COURSE WAS UNCOVERED A SCENE OF SHOCK AND HORROR GREETED THE EYES OF THE MANY HEROES. WUNNER WOMAN LAY IN A CROUCHED POSITION, HER FLESH BROWNED TO A CRISP, AND IN HER MOUTH A JUICY RED APPLE! OBVIOUSLY THE MURDERS WERE NOT OVER YET.
OMIGAWD! HOW HORRIBLE, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO EAT NOW?!
THIS IS TERRIBLE WHERE'S THE GRAVY DON'T WE GET ANY GRAVY ?!!
WHAT IS IT, I CAN'T SEE?!
ARE WE HAVING BIRD? IF SO - I WANT A BREAST!
I WANT LIGHT MEAT NOT DARK MEAT!
LOOK AT HER - JUST LOOK AT HER AQUAN - MAN.
WHAT AN AWFUL WAY TO DIE, TO BE COOKED..
TO COOK THAT SOFT TENDER SENSUOUS FLESH!
DESPITE IT ALL SHE'S STILL BEAUTIFUL.
BEAUTIFUL?
YES - JUST LOOK AT HER, HER FULL SHAPELY BODY CRUELLY BOUND WITH ROPE, TOTALLY HELPLESS, AND YET TOTALLY FEMININE - TOTALLY EROTIC, HER COOKED FLESH STILL CRAVING TO BE TOUCHED - TO BE HELD- TO -
STOP IT! STOP IT!! YOU'RE MAKING ME CRAZY!!!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE AQUAN - MAN WENT?
HE LEFT - HE WAS MUMBLING SOME - THING ABOUT TAKING A COLD SHOWER
HMM IDEA. NOT A BAD
BUMP!
WHY DON'T YOU WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING YOU UGLY GREEN MONSTER!
WHY YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A DECENT COSTUME!
GRRRRR! HUK DON'T LIKE BLUE-HAIR!

HUK TEACH BLUE HAIR A LESSON!
YOU COULON'T TEACH ME ANYTHING YOU STUPID MONSTER!!
GRRRRAG!!!
BAM!
HA! HA! HA! HA! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO HURT ME, I'M STUPORMAN!
WHY NOT TRY AGAIN UGLY-OR DIDJA' HURT YOUR HANDY-WANDY?
YES, HUK TRY AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME HUK WILL HURT BLUE-HAIRED SUPER-EGO!
NOW THAT HURT.
BLAM!
SEVERAL SUPER-HEROES WENT TO FIND STUPORMAN. BUT IT WAS DEREDEVYL AND MARBLE GIRL WHO FOUND HIM, OR SHOULD I SAY HIS CORPSE. STUPORMANS EYES HAD BEEN PLUCKED OUT AND REPLACED WITH KRYPTONITE EYES FROM A RARE DOLL FROM THE PLANET KRYPTON.
TERRIBLE-TO RUIN A DOLL LIKE THAT.
DISGUSTING, IT MAKES ME FEEL SICK - I GET A REAL EMPTY FEELING IN THE PIT OF MY STOMACH.
YEAH I KNOW, I'M HUNGRY TOO, WHERE DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
DECLAN MAC MANUS' BIGGEST FAN!
I TELL YOU MARBLE GIRL, I'M KINDA IN THE MOOD FOR CHINESE FOOD.
WELL, I FEEL LIKE ITALIAN.
I'M PRYING THOUGH, AND I SAY CHINESE.
ITALIAN.
CHINESE
CHINESE
ITALIAN
OKAY ITALIAN.
HEY! NO FAIR, YOU TRICKED ME!

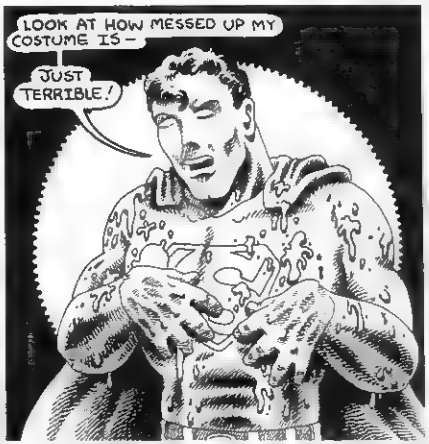
END OF PART - IV

twilight of the heroes

ART AND STORY BY RON WILBER-'78
SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM VAN HISE
ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS OR CHARACTORS LIVING OR DEAD, IS PURELY INTENDED

Someone is killing the Comics Code officials (not to mention a few stray super-heroes as well!) and thus far I have revealed how a cover-up of this began, hiding, until now, the true events of this case which occurred from 1955-1964. Clues have been revealed and last issue we saw Stuporman destroy one killer only to meet a bizarre end later himself!

IT REALLY HAPPENED!



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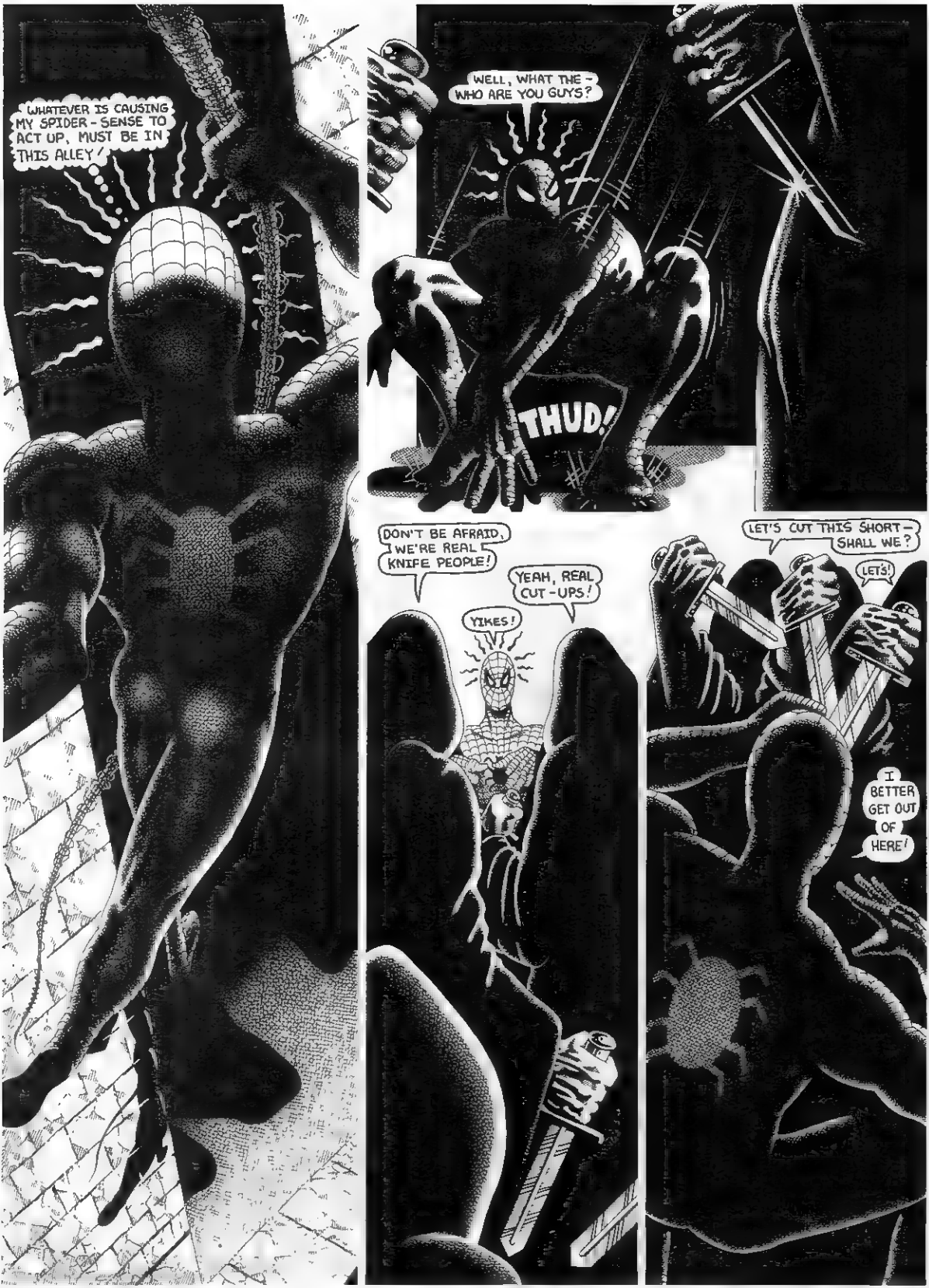
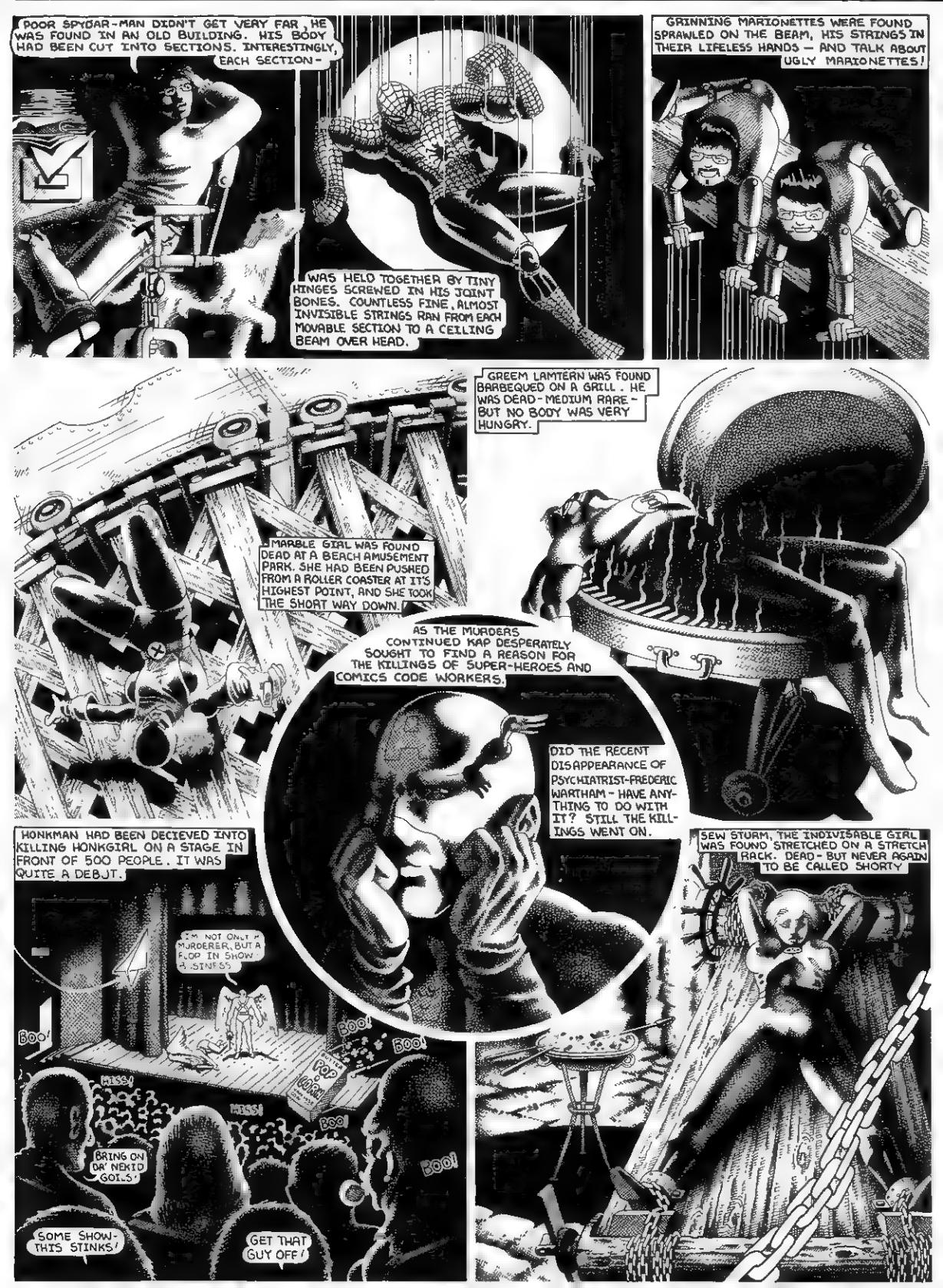
I TELL YOU MARBLE GIRL, I'M KINDA IN THE MOOD FOR CHINESE FOOD.
WELL, I FEEL LIKE ITALIAN.
I'M PAYING THOUGH, AND I SAY CHINESE.
ITALIAN.
CHINESE
CHINESE
ITALIAN
OKAY ITALIAN
HEY! NO FAIR, YOU TRICKED ME!

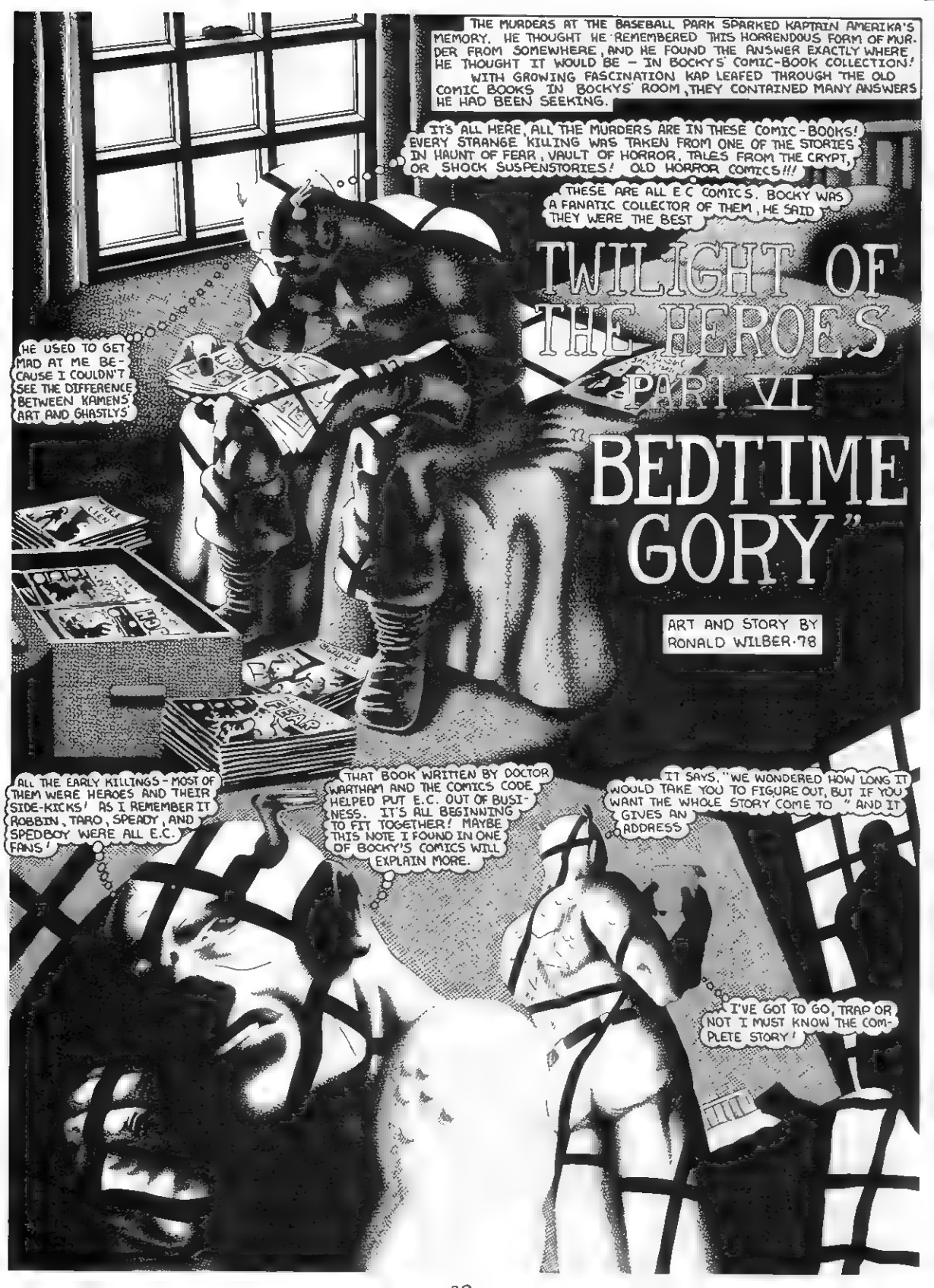
CONTINUED-

THAT'S STRANGE-
MY SPIDER SENSE-
IT'S TINGLING!
TWILIGHT OF THE HEROES
PART V
STRUNG ALONG
ART AND STORY BY RONALD WILBER '78


WHATEVER IS CAUSING MY SPIDER-SENSE TO ACT UP, MUST BE IN THIS ALLEY!
WELL, WHAT THE - WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
THUD!
DON'T BE AFRAID, WE'RE REAL KNIFE PEOPLE!
YEAH, REAL CUT-UPS!
YIKES!
LET'S CUT THIS SHORT - SHALL WE?
LET'S!
I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!


POOR SPYDAR-MAN DIDN'T GET VERY FAR, HE WAS FOUND IN AN OLD BUILDING. HIS BODY HAD BEEN CUT INTO SECTIONS. INTERESTINGLY, EACH SECTION -
WAS HELD TOGETHER BY TINY HINGES SCREWED IN HIS JOINT BONES. COUNTLESS FINE, ALMOST INVISIBLE STRINGS RAN FROM EACH MOVABLE SECTION TO A CEILING BEAM OVER HEAD.
GRINNING MARIONETTES WERE FOUND SPRAWLED ON THE BEAM, HIS STRINGS IN THEIR LIFELESS HANDS — AND TALK ABOUT UGLY MARIONETTES!
GREEM LAMTERN WAS FOUND BARBEQUED ON A GRILL. HE WAS DEAD - MEDIUM RARE - BUT NO BODY WAS VERY HUNGRY.
MARBLE GIAL WAS FOUND DEAD AT A BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK. SHE HAD BEEN PUSHED FROM A ROLLER COASTER AT IT'S HIGHEST POINT, AND SHE TOOK THE SHORT WAY DOWN.
AS THE MURDERS CONTINUED KAP DESPERATELY SOUGHT TO FIND A REASON FOR THE KILLINGS OF SUPER-HEROES AND COMICS CODE WORKERS.
DID THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCE OF PSYCHIATRIST-FREDERIC WARTHAM - HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH IT? STILL THE KILL-INGS WENT ON.
HONKMAN HAD BEEN DECIEVED INTO KILLING HONKGIRL ON A STAGE IN FRONT OF 500 PEOPLE. IT WAS QUITE A DEBJT.
I'M NOT ONLY A MURDERER, BUT A FLOP IN SHOW B. STNESS
BOO!
BOO!
BOO!
POP!
CORK!
HISS!
HISS!
BOO!
BOO!
BRING ON DA' NEKID GOILS!
SOME SHOW- THIS STINKS!
GET THAT GUY OFF!
SEW STURM, THE INDIVISABLE GIRL WAS FOUND STRETCHED ON A STRETCH RACK. DEAD - BUT NEVER AGAIN TO BE CALLED SHORTY

THEN CAME THE MOST HIDEOUS CRIME YET. A CRIME COMITTED IN A BASEBALL STADIUM, THE PLACE OF AMERICAS FAVORITE PAST-TIME TURNED INTO A GRIM CHARNEL HOUSE OF MURDER. THE FIELD WAS LITTERED WITH CORPSES HACKED APART. THE BODIES OF THE FINTASTAC FOUR, THE THUNG, MR. FINTASTAC. AND THE HUMAN TORSH WERE FOUND DISMEMBERED-
AND USED TO PLAY A GAME OF BASEBALL. POLICE WERE IN A QUANDARY. WHAT COULD THEY DO? THERE WAS NO CLUE AS TO WHO COMITTED THE CRIMES, AND WORST OF ALL - TONIGHTS BALL-GAME WOULD HAVE TO BE CALLED OFF!
I SURE WOULDN'T WANT TO BE THE GUY WHO CLEANS UP THIS MESS
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY READ RITCHERDS WOULD LOSE HIS HEAD - OR THAT I COULD MAKE SUCH A LOUSY JOKE.
BUT MAKE THE JOKE HE DID
SUPER-HEROES HAVE NO SHAME!
AS IF THIS CRIME WERE NOT ENOUGH THE DISMEMBERED BODIES OF THE AVENJERS; IRONED MAN, THE MIGHTY THUR, AND THE HUK WERE ALSO FOUND ON THE SAME FIELD. A GRIM NOTE BY THEIR BODIES WAS DISCOVERED. IT READ, "MORE BODIES FOR FUTURE GAMES."
ENTMAN AND THE WISP WERE FOUND MUCH LATER. APPARENTLY THEY HAD MADE AN ESCAPE OUT OF THE STADIUM, BUT WERE KILLED INADVERTENTLY BY A WELL MEANING GARDENER WITH A CAN OF DDT. WHEN INFORMED OF HIS MISTAKE, THE GARDENER, WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES COULD ONLY SAY, "GOSH, I FEEL LIKE SUCH A JERK!"
I GUESS THIS ANSWERS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HE WAS REALLY IMMORTAL OR NOT!
YEAH, SURE GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO CLEAN THIS UP!
O'MALLEY - I GOT A JOB FOR YOU!
YES SIR LIEUTENANT-
WHAT IS IT?
BUT STILL, THE HORROR WAS NOT OVER FOR ON THAT VERY SAME FIELD WERE THE DISMEMBERED BODIES OF THE EX-MEN, THE BEASTIAL, ICEY-MAN, SYKLOPS, AND THE ANGLE. BY THESE CORPSES ANOTHER NOTE WAS FOUND, IT SAID," STILL MORE BODIES FOR FUTURE GAMES, SO SUE US WE PLAY A LOT OF BASE-BALL "
ALSO ON THE SCENE OF HORROR WAS PROFESSOR EXAVIOR, WHO'S MIND WAS NOW GONE. POLICE FIGURED IT WAS THE SIGHT OF HIS YOUNG PUPILS SO BRUTALLY MURDERED THAT DROVE HIM MAD. THE POLICE DISCOVERED ALSO, THAT EXAVIOR DID HAVE THE POWER TO WALK, BUT DELIGHTED IN HAVING PEOPLE WHEEL HIM AROUND AND DO THINGS FOR HIM. IN THE OPINION OF THE POLICE " HE WAS A LEACH."
CLEAN UP ALL THIS MESS WILL YOU?
YES SIR
OHH HELL!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
END OF PART - V
CONTINUED


THE MURDERS AT THE BASEBALL PARK SPARKED KAPTAIN AMERIKA'S MEMORY. HE THOUGHT HE REMEMBERED THIS HORRENDOUS FORM OF MURDER FROM SOMEWHERE, AND HE FOUND THE ANSWER EXACTLY WHERE HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE - IN BOCKYS' COMIC-BOOK COLLECTION!
WITH GROWING FASCINATION KAP LEAFED THROUGH THE OLD COMIC BOOKS IN BOCKYS' ROOM, THEY CONTAINED MANY ANSWERS HE HAD BEEN SEEKING.
IT'S ALL HERE, ALL THE MURDERS ARE IN THESE COMIC-BOOKS! EVERY STRANGE KILLING WAS TAKEN FROM ONE OF THE STORIES IN HAUNT OF FEAR, VAULT OF HORROR, TALES FROM THE CRYPT, OR SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES! OLD HORROR COMICS!!!
THESE ARE ALL E C COMICS. BOCKY WAS A FANATIC COLLECTOR OF THEM, HE SAID THEY WERE THE BEST
TWILIGHT OF THE HEROES
PART VI
"BEDTIME GORY"
ART AND STORY BY RONALD WILBER·78
HE USED TO GET MAD AT ME BECAUSE I COULDN'T SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KAMENS' ART AND GHASTLYS'
ALL THE EARLY KILLINGS - MOST OF THEM WERE HEROES AND THEIR SIDE-KICKS! AS I REMEMBER IT ROBBIN, TARO, SPEADY, AND SPEDBOY WERE ALL E.C. FANS!
THAT BOOK WRITTEN BY DOCTOR WARTHAM AND THE COMICS CODE HELPED PUT E.C. OUT OF BUSINESS. IT'S ALL BEGINNING TO FIT TOGETHER! MAYBE THIS NOTE I FOUND IN ONE OF BOCKY'S COMICS WILL EXPLAIN MORE.
IT SAYS, "WE WONDERED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE YOU TO FIGURE OUT, BUT IF YOU WANT THE WHOLE STORY COME TO " AND IT GIVES AN ADDRESS
I'VE GOT TO GO, TRAP OR NOT I MUST KNOW THE COMPLETE STORY!

PERHAPS KAP DID LEARN THE COMPLETE STORY BEFORE HE WAS KILLED. HE WAS MISSING FOR ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE DR. STRENGE WAS BROUGHT IN TO HELP LOCATE HIM. THE DOCTOR FOUND HIM IN NO TIME - ESPECIALLY AFTER HE GOT A MYSTERIOUS LETTER TELLING HIM WHERE TO FIND THE BODY.
HA! HA! HA!
GOOD LORD!
GASP!
CHOKE!
ALSO FOUND WAS THE MISSING DOCTOR WARTHAM WHO WAS NOW A HOPELESSLY RAVING LUNATIC. TIED TO A POST, HE MERELY LAUGHED AT THE WHOLE HORRIBLE SCENE BEFORE HIM.
KAP WAS FOUND STRUNG UPSIDE DOWN, A TAP INSERTED IN HIS JUGULAR VEIN, AND HIS BODY DRAINED OF BLOOD. DEREDEVYL, DR. STRENGE, AND AQUAN-MAN STOOD BELOW HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING.
UNFORTUNATELY HE TOOK THE SECRET WITH HIM.
HE MUST HAVE KNOWN WHO DID THIS.
NO-ONE KNEW IT YET BUT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST MURDER. STILL SUPER-HEROES AND POLICE HAD NO IDEA WHO COMITTED THE KILLINGS.
HE HAD BEEN DRIVEN INSANE THROUGH FORCED VIEWING OF VIOLENT COMIC-PAGES IN E.C. COMICS.
TODAY HE RESIDES IN A HOSPITAL IN UPSTATE NEW YORK. AN INCURABLE CASE.
HA! HA! HA! HA!

THAT'S THE WAY THE CASE ENDED BACK IN 1964. A COMPLETE MYSTERY, SUPPRESSED AND UNSOLVED ALL THESE LONG YEARS. I WOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN THE FACTS IF SOMEONE HADN'T DECIDED TO BREAK THE SILENCE AND REVEAL THE TRUTH.
USING THE PAPERS AND FILES I HAVE BEEN GIVEN, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH WHAT I BELIEVE IS A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO THIS CASE.
BEFORE I GET INTO THE SOLUTION OF THESE BIZARRE CRIMES, I WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE COMICS PUBLISHER'S; MARBLE, AND A.C. IRRATIONAL - I THOUGHT THEIR BEHAVIOR WAS DISGUSTING! BEFORE THIS EXPOSE WAS PRINTED, THEY TRIED TO BRIBE JIM VAN HISE INTO NOT PRINTING IT!! THEY ALSO TRIED TO BUY ME OFF!!! ALL I CAN SAY IS HA! HA! HA!
WOT A NUT.
DON'T THOSE FOOLS REALIZE THE TEAM OF VAN HISE AND WILBER CAN'T BE "BOUGHT OFF?" WE HAVE INTEGRITY!
B.B.C.C. VAN HISE
EDITORS NOTE — I MIGHT CONSIDER BEING BOUGHT FOR 10 BIG ONES! Jim
I JUST ASKED MYSELF WHAT WARREM PUBLISHING HAD TO LOSE IF THIS STORY WAS PRINTED. WHAT COULD IT BE? THAT, COMBINED WITH THE OTHER PARTS OF THIS PUZZLE SOON MADE EVERYTHING ABUNDANTLY CLEAR- TO ME ANYWAY.
"10 BIG ONES" EH?
EDITOR
LOOK AT THOSE LETTERS ON THAT FILE CABINET. THAT'S JUST A SMALL PORTION OF THE LETTERS WE RECIEVED FROM THE COMIC PUBLISHERS OFFERING A PAY-OFF. WE EVEN GOT LETTERS FROM WARREM PUBLISHING, AND THEY WEREN'T MENTIONED.
JIM WARREM OUTSMARTED HIMSELF THOUGH, HIS INTEREST IN SUPPRESSING THIS STORY HELPED ME SOLVE THE CASE.

FIRST OF ALL, THE GRUESOME KILLINGS OF SUPER-HEROES, AND COMICS CODE OFFICIALS, AND THE KIDNAPPING OF DOCTOR WARTHAM MAKE IT PRETTY OBVIOUS WHO THE KILLERS WERE -
BUT THE QUESTION OF WHY THEY DID IT IS NOT QUITE AS IN-TERESTING AS ANOTHER QUESTION-
WHY DID THEY STOP? WHAT MADE THEM STOP THEIR HORRENDOUS CRIMES IN 1964? WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE POLICE OR THE SUPER-HEROES, THEY WERE HELPLESS BEFORE THESE NEFARIOUS KILLERS.
THIS IS WHERE THE CONNECTION WITH WARREM PUBLISHING COMES IN -
WHINE! WHINE! WHIMPER!
WHATS THE MATTER BOY, HUH?
WHINE! WHINE!
THERE HE IS! GO GET HIM!!
GRR! ON SIT HO!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT STRAIT-JACKET?!
WOOF! WOOF! GRRRR!
JUST BE A GOOD BOY MR. WILBER, AND YOU WON'T GET HURT...MUCH.
THAT'S RIGHT, MAKE SURE IT'S ON HIM GOOD AND TIGHT! BRING THE DOG TOO!!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, I'LL STILL TELL EVERY-THING - SOMEHOW!
GO AHEAD, NO ONE WOULD EVER BELIEVE YOU - YOU'RE CRAZY! HA! HA! HA! HA! NOW GET HIM OUT OF HERE -
AND MAKE IT SNAPPY, WE STILL HAVE TO PICK-UP THAT VAN HISE FELLOW. HEH! HEH! HEH!
COMING UNCLE?
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME BUYING ANOTHER WARREM MAG!
SHUT UP!

I'M CRAZY.

YES, THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO BELIEVE, THAT I'M CRAZY. WHO WOULD BELIEVE A MADMAN? BUT I'M AS SANE AS ANYONE OF YOU WHO ARE READING THIS. AS YOU KNOW, THESE KILLINGS FIRST BEGAN IN 1955 WITH THE KILLING OF COMICS CODE OFFICIALS, AND THEN SUPER-HEROES. IF THE SUPER-HERO MURDERS SEEMED FAMILIAR, ITS BECAUSE THEY WERE. AS KAPTAIN AMERIKA DISCOVERED THEY WERE ALL FROM E.C. HORROR COMICS! THE SPHINX MONSTER FROM "TOMBS DAY!" IN VAULT OF HORROR #35, THE OCTOPUS KILLER FROM "WHO DOUGHNUT?" IN VAULT OF HORROR #30, WUNNER WOMAN BEING COOKED TO DEATH FROM "THIS LITTLE PIGGY..." IN HAUNT OF FEAR #14, MARBLE GIRL THROWN FROM A ROLLER COASTER FROM "SQUEEZE PLAY" IN SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES #13, STUPORMANS EYES REPLACED WITH THE EYES OF A DOLL FROM "SHOE-BUTTON EYES" IN VAULT OF HORROR #35, AND OF COURSE THE BASEBALL MURDERS FROM "FOUL PLAY" IN HAUNT OF FEAR #19, AND THE TAP IN KAPTAIN AMERIKAS NECK FROM "MIDNIGHT MESS!" IN TALES FROM THE CRYPT #35, AND ALMOST ALL THE OTHER SUPER-HERO MURDERS WERE FROM E.C. HORROR COMICS! WHO DID THE KILLINGS? THE THREE E.C. WITCHES OF COURSE! THE CRYPT KEEPER, THE OLD WITCH, AND THE VAULT KEEPER! WHY DID THEY DO IT? WELL, OBVIOUSLY REVENGE AGAINST THE COMICS CODE, AND DOCTOR WARTHAM, AND PROBABLY ANGER AT THE SUPER-HEROES BECAUSE THEY COULD CONTINUE THEIR ADVENTURES WHILE THE WITCHES WERE CURTAILED.

HOW DOES WARREM PUBLICATIONS FIT IN? IN 1964, AS I SAID IN PART ONE OF THIS EXPOSE' THE MURDERS CAME TO A HALT. WHY? BECAUSE THE THREE WITCHES FOUND EMPLOYMENT IN 1964 WITH JIM WARREM AS UNCLE KREEPY, COUSIN ERIE, AND VAMPIRALLA! WARREM BEGAN KREEPY IN 1964 AND SLOWLY INTRODUCED THE OTHERS. SLOWLY MAYBE, TO AVOID SUSPICION BY STARTING ALL THREE AT ONCE. HOW DID THE WITCHES CHANGE APPEARENCE? WELL, THE OLD WITCH IS A VAMPIRE RIGHT, PERHAPS SHE JUST REGAINED HER YOUTH AND BECAME VAMPIRALLA BY DRINKING KAPTAIN AMERIKAS' BLOOD, HIS BLOOD HAD BEEN DRAINED AS YOU WILL RECALL. THE OTHERS HAD PLASTIC SURGERY, OR MAYBE MORE LIKELY, SINCE THEY WERE WITCHES, THEY CAST A SPELL CHANGING THEIR APPEARENCE! REMEMBER HOW WARREM SEEMED LIKE IT MIGHT BECOME THE NEW E.C. BY USING THE TALENTS OF FRAZETTA, WILLIAMSON, DAVIS, ORLANDO AND MANY OTHER E.C. ALUMNI? OF COURSE, THIS NEVER CAME TO PASS, AND GRADUALLY OVER THE YEARS WE'VE SEEN LESS AND LESS OF UNCLE KREEPY AND COUSIN ERIE. WHAT I WORRY ABOUT IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY BECOME DISSATISFIED WITH THIS? WILL THEY GO ON ANOTHER RAMPAGE? WILL THERE BE MORE SENSELESS KILLINGS? NEXT TIME, WHO WILL STOP THEM?!!

THIS PAGE WAS SMUGGLED OUT TO ME FROM THE SECRET HOSPITAL WHERE RON IS BEING HELD BY HIS CAPTOR'S. SINCE THEN I UNDERSTAND RON HAS BEEN GIVEN SHOCK TREATMENTS, AND CAN BE HEARD MUMBLING, "GABBA-GABBA-GABBA-HEY!" ALL DAY LONG. HE IS DUE TO BE RELEASED NEXT WEEK AND IT IS MY HOPE, AND I'M SURE ITS THE HOPE OF ALL YOU LOYAL R.B.C.C. READERS, THAT AFTER A SHORT REST RON WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN. AS TO THE FANTASTIC STORY RON TOLD, I BELIEVE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT IT REALLY HAPPENED, YOU DEAR READERS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELVES.
Jim Van Hise
P.S.
THEY NEVER GOT ME. BU - SOMEONE'S KNOCKING ON THE DOOR - SEE WHO IT IS DELLA - OH NO! ITS THEM!! NO! PUT DOWN THAT STRAIT-JACKET!! HELP!!!